

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00

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O P 131653Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1092

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, GE, SHUM

SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO OBSERVANCE OF FIFTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF ERECTION OF THE BERLIN WALL

REFS: A. USBERLIN 1680 (NOTAL); B. BONN 13469

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG OBSERVANCE OF THE FIFTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE ERECTION OF THE BERLIN
WALL ON AUGUST 13, 1961, FOUND THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT AT
ODDS WITH THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION AS TO THE BEST MEANS TO
APPROACH THIS EMOTIONAL TOPIC. LARGE ATTENTION HAS BEEN
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ACCORDED THE EFFORTS OF PRO-OPPOSITION YOUTH GROUPS TO

ORGANIZE A CONVOY FROM THE FRG TO WEST BERLIN SO THAT THE MEMBERS COULD PROTEST THERE THE WALL'S EXISTENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMENTS ON THE OCCASION BY THE LEADERS OF THE FOUR PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL PARTIES REVEALED DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S "DEUTSCHLANDPOLITIK" AND "OSTPOLITIK."

2. THE CDU'S CHANCELLOR-CANDIDATE KOHL CALLED FOR A BIPARTISAN FRG POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE GDR AND DECLARED THAT SPD/FDP EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP HAVE FAILED. GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD REPLIED IN TURN THAT FIGURES PROVE THE OPPOSITE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN 1975, 3.1 MILLION WEST GERMANS HAD BEEN ABLE TO VISIT THE GDR AND THAT 1.4 MILLION EAST GERMANS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO COME TO THE FRG.

3. SPD LEADER BRANDT DECLARED IN A NEWS ARTICLE THAT THE BERLIN WALL HAD BEEN ERECTED AGAINST THE STREAM OF HISTORY AND THAT THE GERMAN-GERMAN BORDER IN ITS PRESENT FORM WAS AN HISTORICAL ABSURDITY. BRANDT ADDED THAT ISOLATED FROM OTHER FACTORS, HOWEVER, THE PRESENT UNHAPPINESS OF THE GERMAN SITUATION CAN NOT BE CHANGED. THIS CAN ONLY OCCUR IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND A CHANGE IN THE WHOLE EUROPEAN CLIMATE. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER AND FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER CALLED THE WALL AN OBSTACLE TO DETENTE EFFORTS. HE ALSO NOTED HIS PLAN TO RAISE THE GERMAN PROBLEM BEFORE THE UN. FINALLY, CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS ISSUED AN ATTACK ON THE FRG GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE PROPERLY TO RECOGNIZE THE INCREASE IN TERROR, AND THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD ALONG THE WEST BERLIN AND FRG-GDR BORDER.

4. HESSIAN CDU CHAIRMAN DREGGER DECLARED THAT FOR EVERY KILLING ON THE WALL THE FRG SWING-CREDIT TOWARDS THE GDR SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 100 MILLION MARKS. SPD MINISTER EGON BAHR ON THE OTHER HAND CAUTIONED AGAINST A RETURN TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE COLD WAR.

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5. IN GENERAL, GOVERNMENT LEADERS APPEARED TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTINUATION OF DETENTE POLICIES AS A MEANS TO CORRECT THE SITUATION. THEY SHIED CLEAR OF THE STRONG DECLARATIONS OF PROTEST WHICH IN THE PAST HAD CHARACTERIZED THEIR COMMEMORATION OF THIS DATE.

6. PRO-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH GROUPS ON THE OTHER HAND ORGANIZED A CONVOY TO APPROACH BERLIN FROM DIFFERENT

DIRECTIONS (A "STERNFAHRT") IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN
A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN WEST BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13606

THIS EVENING. SPD AND YOUNG SOCIALIST LEADERS ATTACKED
THIS TRIP AS AN UNNECESSARY PROVOCATION. SEVERAL GERMAN
NEWSPAPERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, POINTED OUT THAT SUCH
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN A TYPICAL JUSO WAY IN
WHICH TO PROTEST IN THE PAST, AND SHOULD NOT THEREFORE
BE DISCOUNTED AS A VALID MEANS OF VOICING CRITICISM.

7. FRG BONN GROUP REP, HENZE, HAS PROVIDED US WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INNER-GERMAN BORDER SITUATION. THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT, CONFIDENTIAL

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DESPITE THE MIXED MELODY COMING FROM THE GDR, EAST BERLIN IS INTERESTED IN AVOIDING FURTHER DETERIORATION IN GDR/FRG RELATIONS.

8. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, HENZE REPORTED THAT THE MFA IN EAST BERLIN HAD CALLED IN THE FRG DCM CONCERNING THE "STERNFAHRT" DEMONSTRATION OVER THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL PLANNED IN WEST BERLIN. HE WAS TOLD THAT IT REPRESENTED A MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT RIGHTS TO THE CITY. HE REPLIED MISUSE OF TRANSIT RIGHTS WAS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 16 OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. THE PASSAGE OF PEOPLE TO WEST BERLIN IN THIS CASE CLEARLY DID NOT FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY.

9. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HENZE SAID THAT SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY CARL SCHWEITZER HAD REPORTED FAVORABLY ON HIS CONVERSATION IN MOSCOW WITH BONDARENKO. ACCORDING TO HENZE, SCHWEITZER HAD RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE BORDER INCIDENTS IN RATHER BLUNT TERMS WITH BONDARENKO. HE GAINED THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT BONDARENKO WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE SITUATION AND WISHED TO PLAY IT DOWN. SCHWEITZER CALLED THE RECENT DEATHS "BORDER MURDERS" AND TERMED THE "SCHIESSBEFEHL" A "WAR KILLING IN PEACETIME." BONDARENKO APPARENTLY DID NOT OFFER ANY DEFENSE OF THE GDR, THUS REINFORCING THE FRG FEELING THAT MOSCOW WOULD LIKE TO COOL DOWN THE SITUATION.

10. COMMENT: THE RETURN OF THE IMPRISONED CAUSE CELEBRE WILLI BUBBERS HAS UNDOUBTEDLY AIDED THE FRG GOVERNMENT'S CONVICTION THE GDR LEADERSHIP DOES NOT WANT TO ESCALATE TENSION. BUBBERS EVEN RETURNED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE ABOUT THE TREATMENT RECEIVED FROM HIS COMMUNIST CAPTORS WHO REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE SITUATION ON THE EAST-WEST GERMAN BORDER IS NOT UNIQUE AND THAT SHOOTINGS ON THE US-MEXICAN BORDER ARE ACTUALLY A COMMON OCCURRENCE. WHETHER THE "STERNFAHRT" SOURS THE SITUATION AGAIN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HILLENBRAND

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